

THE COOS DIALOGUE

edition #2, June 25th, 2025



FIGHT POLARIZATION!

COVER IMAGE
by Marlow Kurtz, editor

The President's portrait on the King of Clubs card condemns three of his violations of American political norms:

1. He swings rhetorical and professional cudgels to enact his will in the government, rather than cooperating or collaborating with anyone for any reason.
2. He uses exclusive spaces with high-cost memberships in order to give the wealthiest Americans more direct access to himself and his power.
3. He owns and develops golf courses, hotels, and other real estate projects through his familial proxies, preying upon his singular fame and power as the president in order to rake in millions.

"An avaricious man might be tempted to betray the interests of the state to the acquisition of wealth." —Alexander Hamilton, *Federalist No. 75*

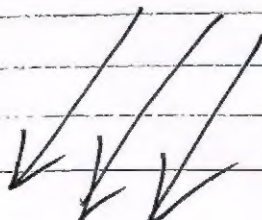


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Keep the faith,

—Marlow



A NEW WRITING AND MESSAGING STYLE
by Matt Love

The great American novelist and essayist Gore Vidal wrote of Ronald Reagan: "Proof of the failure of the American public education system is that Ronald Reagan was elected twice by landslides."

Vidal was wrong on that, but not by much. It wasn't the elementary teachers' fault. All secondary's. All their rote teaching and Pledges of Allegiance to our greatness and *please regurgitate for the test*. It was nothing less than teaching American history and government through textbooks and worksheets, on paper and online, to bolster the myths and frauds. Boring, irrelevant, devoid of thinking and introspection, and look where we are now.

If Gore Vidal were alive today he might write: "Proof of the failure of American public secondary social studies teachers is that Donald Trump won two Presidential elections."

Vidal had his signature acidic style, in print and on television, but it begs the question: would it connect with fence-sitting voters today? No. Neither would Woodward and Bernstein's reporting. Neither would the Muckrakers magazine exposes that helped bust the trusts. Nor NPR's somnolent voices documenting strife and injustice. Just as ineffective are political jokes of the late night liberal comedians and sober, rational, fact-based analysis by the talking heads at CNN and MSNBC. Newspaper editorial pages are useless, if not on the verge of extinction, in swaying readers. And most useless of all is the national leadership of the Democratic Party and their army of consultants and wordsmiths.

Wait, not *most* useless: that title is held by the progressive, ultra-liberal Left espousing slogans and agendas laden with nonsensical jargon, often birthed in academia and swallowed by supplicants performing on social media. They have nothing to say to ordinary Americans of any color struggling to survive.

The French philosopher and writer Jean-Paul Sartre wrote: "New problems demand new writing styles."

The new problem (actually, it's 40 years old) the Democratic Party faces is how to reach working-class, middle-class and non-college educated voters or non-voters with a potent message that infiltrates and helps them understand that voting for Democratic candidates at the state and federal level is to their great economic advantage.

Yes, what is a new writing and messaging style that connects? Or does it even matter? Isn't the medium the message as Marshall McLuhan famously said, decades before the internet or social media?

The words matter. The messages matter.

Let us hope this publication, so aptly named *Dialogue*, spurs Democrats and Independents to consider

the question posed above and perhaps *engage with the uninformed or brainwashed voters and non-voters we must recruit and convince to replace the moral abscess that is the Trump Administration and his toadies in Congress.*

Will that kind of writing style, insults and sanctimony, win the day?

What is the writing, communication and messaging style we need? Let the dialogue begin, and I started some the other day with an elderly Trumpian supporter sitting in his truck at dawn while marveling at orange and purple stratocumulus clouds rising over Coos Bay. I was walking my dog and doing exactly the same thing when we met. We began with the beauty around us and then I went from there.

It wasn't much, but it was a start and I was in his backyard.

Please excuse our page numbers. We are still learning. - Marlow

Book Club

Reading
the Federalist Papers
meeting

Wednesday, July 9th
at 3:00pm at the Dems'
office [791 Virginia Ave]
North Bend



BUREAUCRATS ANONYMOUS: THOUGHTS FROM THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Understanding the Operational Impact of DOGE on Government Agencies

I want to provide you and the public with a better understanding of how DOGE has impacted the operations of government agencies. While the actions of DOGE have been previously reported, what remains largely unknown to the public is the *negative* effect these actions have had on staff morale, operational efficiency, and the federal budget. Below are just a few common issues that have affected a significant portion of the federal workforce. These are challenges experienced across many agencies.

For many years, the single-purchase limit on government-issued credit cards has been \$10,000. Any purchase exceeding this amount requires the issuance of a formal government contract. On the surface, this policy seems reasonable—contracts are intended to provide oversight and ensure the government gets the best possible value.

In practice, however, the contracting process is slow, bureaucratic, and resource-intensive. It involves numerous departments and consumes an excessive amount of staff time. Once labor costs are factored in, the intended savings often disappear. A \$13,000 purchase, for example, can end up costing the government closer to \$18,000 due to the added time and complexity of contracting.

The situation is even more restrictive for services such as construction, where the threshold has historically been as low as \$2,500.

The real result of these lowered credit limits is increased cost to the public for the same goods or services. Any administration that genuinely values efficiency—both in terms of time and taxpayer dollars—should consider raising these limits to more practical levels.

Another significant inefficiency is the practice of requiring excessive layers of approval for even minor purchases. Due to past incidents of fraud or accounting errors, many agencies now mandate multiple authorizations—sometimes as many as seven signatures—for routine transactions.

While digital tracking systems can help streamline this process, the cost in staffing time remains high. The fifth or sixth signature on a small purchase is unlikely to prevent fraud but does increase project delays and workload. It also contributes to a more frustrating and less productive work environment.

Currently, we're seeing a trend toward centralized authority across the federal government. This often leads to diminished productivity and increased operational costs. Should the public witness a reversal of

this trend—toward more localized, flexible oversight—it would likely signal a return to greater efficiency. This isn't in the DNA of DOGE.

I want to briefly address the issue of theft and abuse within federal agencies. I'm not in law enforcement, nor am I high-ranking enough to review such cases formally, but there is a consistent narrative circulating among officials: individuals caught stealing government property, including computers, frequently face minimal consequences. In some cases, they are even rumored to be promoted or quietly reassigned—shielded from accountability.

Why does this happen? Possible reasons include:

- “Old boy” networks protecting their own,
- Efforts to avoid public embarrassment,
- Fears of costly lawsuits by terminated employees.

Whatever the cause, the outcome is unacceptable. Administrators who conceal or ignore theft should be prosecuted as accessories. These are not just HR issues—they are criminal matters. Yet in an administration led by a convicted felon, one might expect that low-level offenders will be punished while higher-level misconduct is ignored or redefined as legal. It happened in Trump's first term and it's happening again, as should be expected.

The term “abuse” is often used to describe the misuse of government property for personal gain. While that does occur, a more damaging and prevalent form of abuse is the harassment of employees by coworkers.

These incidents cost the government millions in EEO settlements—but the financial burden doesn't stop there. The hidden cost lies in the enormous amount of time managers and staff must spend navigating HR complaints. A single harassment issue can increase a manager's workload by 20%. If there's more than one, it can completely overwhelm their ability to function, both professionally and personally.

Formal investigations and disciplinary decisions are often drawn out for over a year. Complex protections for federal employees make it extremely difficult to take timely action against known abusers. As a result, some employees learn to manipulate the system—intimidating others, avoiding accountability, and eroding team morale.

This environment doesn't just drive employees away—it drives away the *best* employees. In offices where abuse is tolerated, staff become preoccupied with office politics and appearances rather than their actual work. Creativity suffers, collaboration dies, and overall effectiveness plummets.

The saying, “It's impossible to fire a bad government employee,” may not be universally true, but

it reflects a very real frustration.

There is no simple fix to workplace abuse without risking harm to innocent employees. However, the presence of serial abusers is not difficult to detect. Offices with such individuals typically have:

- High turnover rates that align with the abuser's tenure,
- A history of formal complaints,
- Exit interviews that identify toxic dynamics.

If agencies are given real investigative resources—and if the culture shifts to one where abusers are held accountable—government workplaces can become safer, more efficient, and more fulfilling. This would not only benefit employees but also significantly improve the government's return on taxpayer investment.

What does this systemic problem of workplace abuse have to do with DOGE?

Under the current administration, there appears to be little commitment to protecting employees—particularly those from minority groups. When leadership is modeled by someone with a history of abusive behavior, it's difficult to expect meaningful progress. I've already witnessed a troubling trend: ethical leaders, passionate professionals, and minority employees are leaving federal service for state positions, private sector roles, or early retirement. In the last election, the nation chose fear and corruption over integrity and truth. When we elect individuals with criminal backgrounds, we forfeit the chance to build a well-functioning, efficient, and just government.



TWO DISTINCT FORMS OF DIALOGUE

by Emily West

This magazine invites us to have clear-headed conversations with one another about issues of policy, and while I believe that is a noble aim, I want to warn against the idea that any form of political conversation between the left and the MAGA right can be fruitful. I agree that left-leaning people ought to work harder to have more productive disagreements with one another, but I think that having boldfaced disagreements with MAGA voters can only result in the confirmation of their bias that we are all evil.

When it comes to discussions with MAGA voters, I lean on the advice of Dr. Lee McIntyre, research fellow at the Center for Philosophy and History of Science at Boston University and an instructor in ethics at Harvard Extension School. In his political pamphlet "On Disinformation," McIntyre makes the argument that MAGA politicians are engaging in a deliberate, coordinated campaign against the truth, itself. These malefactors are conducting the exact same kind of denialist campaign that big tobacco invented in the 1950s, following the exact same formula. I will reference Dr. McIntyre's work as I offer my analysis on how we should dialogue with our MAGA neighbors in our small community.

The most important thing to remember is that MAGA voters are *victims* of the messaging of their political party. They have had their biases, fears, bigotry, and beliefs twisted into unimaginably uncomfortable shapes to inspire the kind of coalescing fear that the MAGA politicians need in order to whip their base into line. The worst of their hatred for others has been manufactured for them to think, and you can hear them regurgitating catchy slogans and easy-to-remember talking points rather than their own personal opinions on matters of bigotry. Our president, himself, is the source of most of the genuine fear that MAGA voters feel for the country, and they have been reduced down to their most basic impulses by that ever-increasing weight of stress.

The next key fact to keep in mind when dealing with a MAGA voter is that *they cannot be reasoned into believing the truth*. The MAGA movement represents a pendulum swing in response to decades of leftist identity politics: the right got tired of leftist logic dodging and now the right can do it much better than any Marxist-Leninist ever could. McIntyre argues that "denialist beliefs are not based on facts" but that they are instead "rooted in identity." When we, with our Democrat, Libertarian, or even Anarchist identities present ourselves to the MAGA voters in our community, their system of biases assume us to be incorrect *based on the fact of who we are* rather than on the evidence we can cite for our beliefs. McIntyre specifies that the

disinformation campaign being run on MAGA voters isn't just about getting them to agree with whatever Donald Trump says, "but to erode [their] trust in the 'truth tellers' on the other side." The MAGA media machine has been incredibly effective in accomplishing this goal, as all sources of information outside of MAGA are viewed with extreme skepticism by MAGA voters. As McIntyre points out, "mere doubt can be overcome with evidence, but distrust cannot."

If leftists are capable of exercising sympathy for the homeless, for refugees, or for addicts, then we have all we need to exercise sympathy for our deluded fellow Americans. We are the only adults in the room now, and that means being patient with MAGA voters. It means listening to them with a view to understanding what in their identity or in their personal feelings led them to be susceptible to this kind of propaganda. These are people who need to be healed from decades of cultish faith, not people who have simply missed the right answers.

Be a good neighbor.

Be a patient listener.

Our true fight is with those who lied to our brothers.



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NOTES ON THE SHOOTING IN SALT LAKE CITY

by Lucy Nightshade

I had three wishes before No Kings: massive turnout for us, tumbleweeds rolling down the deserted streets of DC, and nobody gets hurt. I only got two of those. A terrible thing happened in Salt Lake City, when a "peacekeeper" affiliated with the organizers of the rally shot at a guy open-carrying a rifle, hitting him and killing another person. Early news reports that a mass shooter had rushed a crowd spread fast on social media. But that story has unraveled. My sources here are Fox13 News, The Handbasket, Chad Loder, and Robert Evans.

Shots fired by the unidentified "peacekeeper" hit local musician and activist Arturo Gamboa, and a bystander attending the protest, Arthur Folasca "Afa" Ah Loo, who later died. Mr. Ah Loo was a Samoan-American fashion designer with two young kids, who had been on Project Runway. My heart breaks for his family. His death is a terrible tragedy that should not have happened, but the shooter apparently got spooked enough to forget his training and fire into the crowd.

The person with the rifle, 24-year-old Arturo Gamboa, was known to the local activist community. He'd been open-carrying his rifle, which is legal in Utah, at community protests since at least 2020. He was wearing all black, as many people in the activist community have been doing for years. Though some have said he was holding his weapon awkwardly, in the video you can see it is pointed at the ground. He was not rushing the crowd, he was walking at a normal pace.

The people in the yellow vests were "peacekeepers" from the local 50501 organization, which has said that these "peacekeepers" were selected for their military experience— it is not clear if they were paid or volunteers. The shooter, who has not been identified, was a veteran. Many veterans have commented that de-escalation is not something that is emphasized in military training. The "peacekeepers" were specifically told to be unarmed. The shooter had a handgun, though. He apparently saw Arturo with his brown skin, black clothing, and long gun, and thought he was dangerous, so he went over and shot at him. In the video Arturo starts running when he hears the shots and is hit by a bullet; he doesn't lift his gun and he doesn't fire back at the person who just shot him. Arturo then sheltered with other protesters, one of whom saw his gun and pointed it out to nearby police, who immediately arrested him.

From Marisa Kabas & Bryan Schott at The Handbasket on 6/18/25: 'Jake Gatenby, a Salt Lake City-based freelance photographer, was by his estimation 15-30 feet in front of Ah Loo when he was shot. He said he was angry to learn the armed volunteers had been hired by the protest organizers, "but from what I experienced before, during, and after the shooting it makes sense." Gatenby said the behavior of the volunteers in yellow vests had struck him as strange from the start. He said they "acted as if they were there to control the protestors, rather than protect them."

According to Salt Lake City Police Chief Brian Redd, witnesses reported that Gamboa "raised the weapon in a firing position and began running toward the crowd." But video taken from a balcony overlooking the protest appears to show something different. "It clearly shows Arturo in full black dress casually walking towards the protest with his rifle pointed down towards the ground and one hand on the barrel," a friend of Gamboa, whose name isn't being shared to ensure his safety, said after watching the video many times over. "The security team approached him from the side and rear, almost across the street, with weapons out. You can hear in the audio that they fire on Arturo, at which point he leans forward, which causes the rifle and his hand to come up, but not in a ready position, in a fleeing position. The security team continues to fire twice more, and Arturo runs away as the video ends."

It was this sudden repositioning in response to the volunteer shooting his gun that may have made it appear as though Gamboa was aiming his weapon at the crowd. But no video shared so far bears out that version. "I am shaking with anger with how unnecessary it all was," Gatenby said. "It feels like there were major lapses in top-down judgment since the conception of this event. A man is dead, another innocent man is in jail, and hundreds of people are traumatized because of piss poor decisions from the organizers to the shooter."

Arturo was arrested for the killing of Mr. Ah Loo, even though he never fired a shot. From Chad Loder: 'KSL News Utah legal analyst Greg Skordas, a defense attorney and former deputy DA, says the recommended murder charge against Gamboa will be "difficult to charge, never mind prosecute." He says the DA will look at the actions of the "peacekeeper," and doubts his actions will be found "reasonable."

Chad Loder reports: 'People who know Gamboa describe him as a "sweet kid", a drummer in a punk rock band who has attended many open-carry protests in the past. "He's always trying to do the right thing. He would never go into a crowd of people with harm or ill intent." Friends said that when previous event organizers have

asked that no guns be present, Arturo didn't bring his weapon. On Monday evening, Fox13 reported that 'friends of Gamboa said they don't believe he ever brandished the weapon. They believe the shooting was "a deadly miscommunication — someone overreacting because they saw Gamboa open-carrying." "Arturo goes to a lot of protests — most of the protests," his friend Konrad Keele said. "He understands weapons. He knows how to handle them...The gun was pointed at the ground, from all the videos I've seen."

Arturo's father is a Venezuelan immigrant who came to the United States in the 1990s and his mother is from Alabama. In a 2021 interview with his band, Arturo said: "Half my family is very Mormon religious and comes from a line of military people. The American system is a steam train that has always been fueled by black and brown bodies."

Update: Arturo has been released! Utah News Dispatch reports: 'Third District Court Judge James Blanch signed an order on Friday directing Gamboa to be released from the Salt Lake County Jail, where he's been held since Saturday night, with conditions agreed to through his attorney, Greg Skordas. Those conditions, according to the order, are that Gamboa "maintain residence" with his father and provide address and contact information to Utah Pretrial Services officials, that he not possess any firearms, that he turn in his passport to his attorney, and follow certain other conditions with pretrial services officials, who provide supervision for defendants. That includes staying in touch with his lawyer and calling a recorded line once a day.

"We're happy to have this behind us," Skordas said in a text to Utah News Dispatch on Friday. "He should have never been in jail in the first place. We firmly believe Arturo committed no crimes." As of Friday, Salt Lake County prosecutors had not filed charges against Gamboa or anyone else involved in the shooting. Skordas said the rifle Gamboa was carrying during the protest was not loaded.'

I think some of the reaction to this event is coming from people who are pretty new to activism. The current situation is bringing a lot of people to protests who are total noobs. So while committed SLC activists knew Arturo, many of the No Kings attendees had never seen him before. I saw a post that said "Don't bring guns to a liberal protest." These are not "liberal" protests, they are anti-fascist, pro-democracy protests, and we need to unite everyone in order to achieve our goal of a free society.

"No guns at protests" is not a realistic goal, in my opinion. I am in favor of people exercising their 2nd

amendment rights. There are nearly 400 million firearms in the US, and most of them are owned by people on the right. In the 1990s, I noticed that the right was rapidly arming up, while liberals were rejecting the idea of owning firearms, and I wondered what the result of that would be. It seemed like the left would end up as sitting ducks, lambs to the slaughter. As we have seen, most politically-motivated violence is committed by people on the right. I do not want to leave our community undefended.

You may have seen a couple of community defenders at our rallies. They are trained, practice regularly, and carry their weapons safely. We all hope it doesn't come to this, but there may be a time when we are grateful they were there. We may need others to join them.

More people on the left are now taking an interest in firearms, which is great. I am one of them, but I won't be armed at protests anytime soon, because I am still a beginner. If you are considering taking up a new hobby, it is essential that you get training, practice regularly, and store your weapons safely, away from children. We have a community member, a certified firearms instructor, who is offering guidance in selecting equipment and training, and a progressive gun club is forming. You do not need to already be a gun owner. For more information, email nimblecivic@gmail.com

I will leave you with this quote from journalist Luke O'Neil, who writes about American dystopia on his aptly named site WelcomeToHellWorld.com

I was fighting fascism with the power of love and kindness and just really getting my ass handed to me. A total bloodbath. The referee would have stepped in by now but they had knocked him out with a steel chair. The only others watching were either fascists themselves or the people trying to fight fascism with the power of love and kindness and they weren't having a great go of it either. I kept trying to explain in between haymakers that we were better than this and on top of that it wasn't likely to be ruled on favorably as far as the courts. None of it helped. I was on my knees now bleeding profusely from the mouth and nose. It spilled out of me onto the snow in a pattern that if you sort of squinted at it just so from the right vantage looked like a heart. See that I pointed. Look how beautiful the world can be I tried to say through my broken teeth. Alright well now he was pulling out a gun. I didn't think we were allowed to do that.

Response to "United in a State of Collapse" by
Lucy Nightshade – edition # 1, page 8

Thanks a lot, Lucy! You gave me brain spasms! I was transported back to 1973, remembering *Soylent Green* directed by Richard Fleischer. Also, to 1995, when *Toxic Sludge is Good for You: Lies, Damn Lies, and the Public Relations Industry* by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton was required reading at college. And 2017, when KellyAnne Conway used "alternative facts" as a reason for lying. In response, Chuck Todd told her, "They're falsehoods!"

There have always been conmen. I just can't believe we still have to fight the good fight, decade after decade, century after century. As for the super wealthy, they don't need to change. If they don't like something, they can hide in their bunkers (as you said) or live on their yachts or private islands. They get rid of Inspectors General who were independent watchdogs. They get rid of the IRS auditors who were independent watchdogs. Fire anyone who might catch the super wealthy in a lie. Truth in advertising is a joke these days.

Wow, Lucy, you covered a lot. Keep up the good work.

I'm going to take an aspirin now.
Darlene Martin



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With such an ugly enemy,
the opposition should be
beautiful and joyous.



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BOOK REVIEW: TIM ALBERTA'S THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORY

by the Coos Democrats Book Club

Born to an evangelical Christian family with a minister and a devout wife, Alberta has spent a lifetime witnessing the cultural shifts in his own family's evangelical church. Even so he was shocked when, at his father's funeral, he found himself not universally consoled for the loss of his father by church members. Instead a great many in the congregation put aside their respect for his father to provide commentary on Limbaugh and Donald Trump. A political correspondent and writer, Alberta had recently written a critique of Rush Limbaugh, but he didn't expect this. Not at church. It wasn't just one church member, and Alberta was particularly shocked when asked if he was "on the right side," ... while his father lay in a box just a hundred feet away. The shock of this funeral led Mr. Alberta to delay his current project and to instead spend the next few years researching the rise of Christian Nationalism and how it is playing out in both American churches and in our politics. The book is divided into three sections.

The Kingdom: Tim Alberta refers to the Bible in his interviews with clergy and his exploration of the rise of the Christian right in the US. While Christians are offered an eternal kingdom in the Bible (and that kingdom is not of this earth), larger churches and their ministers attract the attention of politicians who need those large numbers to vote. Some church leaders in turn use this to make demands on those politicians that help grow their coffers. Alberta exemplifies this trade off best in his telling of the 1980 presidential campaign. Jerry Falwell was "white hot" over then President Carter's refusal to provide a tax exempt status to his Bob Jones Christian University, and Ronald Reagan used this as an opportunity to court his favor from the Falwell's pulpit. But this is only one example. From the anti-abortion movement and the Moral Majority to the effects of Covid, the intertwining of church and state are covered here.

Of equal importance, members of the congregations of these churches can grow to idolize our nation and come to believe on their own that the US as a nation is somehow ordained or chosen by God. Other politicians have preached this kind of nationalism in their campaigns. But in 2015 Trump used the twin narratives of "America at the abyss" and "Christianity is in the crosshairs" to panic the faithful. To save our Christian nation the faithful needed to vote Trump.

The Power: Included in the narrative of Christian Nationalism is the idea that fighting for America is fighting for God. Many evangelicals also believe this fight will be rewarded here on Earth, right now with power from above. Thus, Trump won the

votes of 81% of evangelicals in 2016. Many politicians, pundits and politicized preachers have stoked this image of brave Christians carrying out this battle for our nation to the ballot box, and Alberta brings much of this to light. This idea of a battle has empowered both clergy and Christian Nationalist politicians. Whether it is misappropriating the language, as DeSantis did when replacing "the devil" in a biblical quote with "the left," or a church supplying army camouflage uniforms for churchgoers who are then saluted as part of God's army, certain politicians and certain evangelical church leaders derive power by linking Church to State.

Alberta addressed the rise of Trumpism in the evangelical churches which is so very informative for those of us who saw the rise of Christian Nationalism in our politics. Why was Mike Pence dumped by the faithful in favor of a less religious Trump? Why was the football hero and domestic abuser Hershel Walker of Georgia supported by many evangelicals over the minister Raphael Warnock of a famous black Baptist church? This and more are brought to light by significant research and interviews in this section.

The Glory: If you look, you can easily find books, pundits, and Christians who describe Donald Trump as a strong, holy man. Tim Alberta interviews the author of one such book, God and Donald Trump in depth. Written by the head of the Charismatic Media, Stephen E. Strang describes Trump as a "bighearted ... family man whose moral failings make him even more suitable for the job of US president." Alberta in this section attends to the arguments made that Trump can, or will, save the nation—God's nation. For those of us with a logical bent, it is amazing to read the fallacious thinking of those who believe they must stop the spread of progressive ideas and ideals in this country in order to save the nation. And the glory? It is given to the powerful on Earth who shepherd us. And for the U.S., that shepherd is Trump.

In writing this review we have found it hard not to linger as the depth of the research and interviews that make this book are set in a highly readable format. While the final 42 pages of notes and an index make this book a useful reference work, too, Tim Alberta ends by describing the return of some churches to a more traditional deference to the things that are Caesars while using their time in church for matters of the spirit, the book was published in 2023, and perhaps Tim Alberta will update his analysis of Trump and the evangelicals as we move into, and are witnessing the events of, Trump's second term. That, too, would be worth reading.

Join the Coos Democrats Book Club in reading *the Federalist Papers*. Next meeting at 3:00pm on July 9th at the Coos Dems' office (791 Virginia Ave, North Bend). Text available through the *Hoopla* app. Email coos.dialogue@gmail.com to inquire.

NOTES ON DEMAGOGUERY

by Kam Kofod

When Trump started his first presidential campaign, he used words like "vermin," "parasites," "insects," "weeds," "dirt," and "animals" to describe his opponents—words not used since the 30s and 40s by Hitler and Stalin. Hitler blamed Jews for many of the problems in Germany, including economic issues and crime. Trump is saying the same thing about immigrants.

Trump's rhetoric is so similar to Hitler's that I couldn't believe any American would vote for him, but they did. When he said he could shoot someone and not lose any followers, I saw that even that didn't make his followers see how evil he was. I was gripped with fear.

The way he demonizes immigrants in America is almost identical to ways that Hitler spoke of the Jews. Trump is saying horrible things about me, and a large part of the country, and he still got elected! Our president is someone that should care about all Americans and inspire them to come together. Instead he was calling us names and causing division.

When he got in for a second term, then appointed unqualified ass-kissers to the highest positions in our government, I felt like America was doomed. Then he turned our closest allies against us, and kissed up to terrorists. Half the country was gripped with fear, but he didn't stop there. When he started ripping hardworking, law-abiding people from their homes and sending them to a concentration camp in El Salvador, I wanted to cry. I couldn't believe what I was seeing happening in America.

Anne Frank wrote in her diary, "Terrible things are happening outside... poor helpless people are being dragged out of their homes. Families are torn apart; men, women and children are separated. Children come home from school to find that their parents have disappeared."

The exact same thing is happening here!

How can so many Americans not see the resemblance between Trump and Hitler? It's right there in the rhetoric! Are Americans missing the connection because he is targeting immigrants instead of Jews? The purpose of his words and actions are the same as Hitler's; haven't Americans learned anything from history? Many are saying, "We will just watch and see what happens." That's exactly what Germany did.

Trump regularly calls immigrants "rapists," "criminals," "illegal monsters," "killers," and "gang members," when most immigrants are hardworking, law-abiding people with a lower crime rate than citizens.

Trump has connected a group of people with the idea of disease, illness, and crime. He dehumanizes them with wild accusations. He speaks of squashing them or cleansing them as if they were pests or bacteria. Now he is arresting them, depriving them of the human rights

that our Constitution clearly extends to non-citizens, excluding them from due process, and sending them to concentration camps.

How can so many Americans see this as Ok?

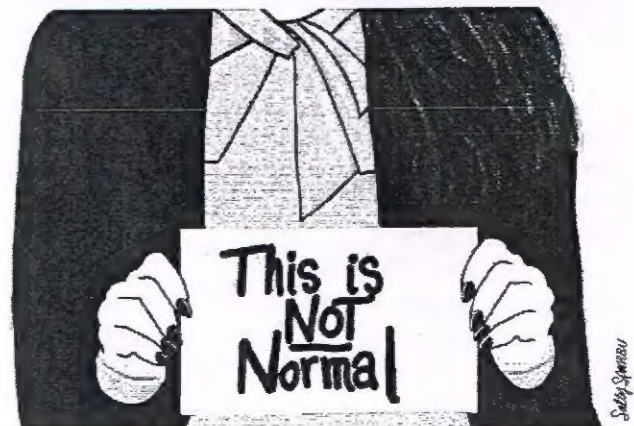
Do they think that immigrants really are parasites? Do they think immigrants aren't human? Do they think they are vermin who don't deserve freedom of speech, or freedoms of any kind? Do they think that if you squash them, you won't be held accountable?

Until Trump, this kind of language was not a normal part of American presidential politics. Even George Wallace's racist, neo-Confederate 1963 speech (or his inaugural speech as Alabama governor and the prelude to his first presidential campaign) didn't use such language. Wallace called for "segregation today, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever." But he did not speak of his political opponents as "vermin" or talk about them poisoning the nation's blood.

Trump blurs the line between illegal immigrants and legal immigrants—the latter including his wife, his late ex-wife, the in-laws of his running mate, and many others. He has said of immigrants, "They're poisoning the blood of our country" and "They're destroying the blood of our country." He has claimed that many have "bad genes." He has also been more explicit: "They're not humans; they're animals"; they are "cold-blooded killers." He refers to his opponents—American citizens, some of whom are elected officials—as "the enemy from within ... sick people, radical-left lunatics."

His talk of mass deportation is equally frightening. When he suggests that he would target both legal and illegal immigrants, or use the military against U.S. citizens, knowing that past dictatorships have used public displays of violence to build popular support and fear. By calling for mass violence, he demonstrates disdain for the rule of law and prepares his followers to accept the idea that his regime could break the law with impunity.

If we don't reject Trump and his administration NOW, civil war leading to WW3 are inevitable.



A Golden Calf

L. Sue Powrie

During the recent Secretary of Dense Hegseth's testimony to Congress, he warned Senator Slotkin "I'd be careful of what you read in books and believing it. Except the Bible."

Let me draw attention to Exodus 20 2-17 and Deuteronomy 5 6-21.

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall make no idols.
3. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
4. Keep the Sabbath day holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's house, wife, or property.

I personally understand the Third Commandment's phrase *in vain* to be *with vanity*.

There are no golden calves on my cattle ranch and there never will be.



**"On some issues
that are matters
of conscience, it
is better to stand
alone than not
stand at all."**

Rep Al Green, D-Texas

NO KINGS!

ALL COOS CITIZENS, JOIN US IN PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION

SATURDAY, 6/14@
COOS BAY BOARDWALK
FROM NOON TO 2PM

PROFESSIONAL DRESS.
(optional)

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT.
(mandatory)

"All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent." - Thomas Jefferson

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